

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 DODE-00

H-02 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 IO-10 /104 W

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R 041807Z APR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8610

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 510

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC

SUBJECT: EC-EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: A. STOCKHOLM 1224 (NOTAL) B. OSLO 1150 (NOTAL)

1. 1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES IN THE EC-EFTA
TA
RULES OF ORIGIN WITH GABRIELSSON OF THE SWEDISH MISSION, WHO HAS
GIVEN US, IN ADDITION TO THE MARCH 14 PUBLIC STATEMENT, A MUCH LONGER
AND MORE DETAILED COMMUNICATION AGREED TO BY THE EFTA STATES AND
GIVEN BY THEM TO THE EC COMMISSION. COPIES OF BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE
BEING POUCHED TO STATE, COMMERCE AND STRD.

2. THE EMPHASIS OF THE PROPOSALS IS ON WIDER USE OF A PERCENTAGE
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RULE, RATHER THAN SHIFT IN BTN HEADING, AS THE BASIS FOR QUALIFICATIO

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OF ORIGINATING PRODUCTS. WHILE IT IS SUGGESTED THAT AS A START, USE OF A PERCENTAGE RULE (E.G., NON-ORIGINATING PRODUCTS NOT TO EXCEED 40 PERCENT OF VALUE) BE INTRODUCED IN THE "ENGINEERING SECTOR" (BTN 80-90 AND 92), THE COMMUNICATION ALSO SUGGESTS THAT A PERCENTAGE RULE BE ESTABLISHED AS AN ALTERNATIVE BASIS FOR QUALIFICATION AS ORIGINATING PRODUCTS FOR ALL GOODS EXCEPT TEXTILES.

3. GABRIELSSON SAYS HE EXPECTED FIRST CONSIDERATION OF THE EFTA PROPOSALS IN THE EC-EFTA JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF JUNE. HE NOTES, AS A SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT ONLY CERTAIN EC MEMBER-STATE PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF THE ORIGIN RULES, BUT ALSO A RECENT EC COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON CUSTOMS SIMPLIFICATION, WHICH PROPOSED AS STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLICATION OF A PERCENTAGE RULE TO PRODUCTS IN BTN 84-92. NEVERTHELESS, HE DOES NOT EXPECT EARLY DEFINITIVE ACTION ON THE EFTA PROPOSALS. MYERSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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